

MISSOURI JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

VOLUME 25

JULY, 2000

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

*To get your 2 cents
worth...*



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P.O. Box 410652

St. Louis, MO 63141-0652

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M.N.S PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Ken Thompson

Welcome to the 40th Annual M.N.S. Coin Festival. The Missouri Numismatic Society recognizes education, dealers, investors and collectors as important components of the numismatic hobby. Education is necessary to build a continuous stream of new collectors. Dealers provide access to coins and other material needed for collections and study. Investors assure a supply of reasonably priced coins and other material for both dealers and collectors. And, of course, without collectors, there would be no studies or marketplace. It is remarkable that the numismatic collector/researcher/writer outpaces the work of the professional archaeologist.

The club's educational program is divided into 3 main areas. We continue add to the over 1800 titles of numismatic materials housed for us in the main branch of the St. Louis County Library. Books and periodicals can be used by anyone who visits the library. Our membership shares its expertise with articles the society publishes in this journal. Mike Pfefferkorn leads the teams which fulfill these two educational functions.

Mike Dwyer recruits presenters of our informative programs at the meetings. The program schedule for the coming year can be found on the last page of this book. Additional programs, including a book promotion, are under consideration for the near future.

John Foster, as the bourse chairman, works with the dealers and investors to have bourse tables at the annual show. Steve Moore conducts a 50 lot auction at our regular meetings.

Through their collections, The M.N.S. membership has developed knowledge and expertise in many fields of numismatics. Our members are another important resource to beginning collectors. The subjects of their collections are as varied as the people in the club.

This is a remarkable year for numismatics. Our new state quarters not only record history but also provide a means to increase our young people's level of geography skills. The new dollar coin has caught the attention of the public as well.

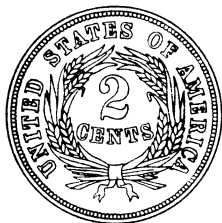
We invite you to our meetings which, except for November and December, are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Mount Zion U.M.C. located at 1485 Craig Road. (See the schedule in the back of this journal.) Doors open at 7:00 with the meeting starting at 7:30.



TRAVEL THE WORLD THROUGH NUMISMATICS

VISIT THE MNS

**CHECK THE CALENDAR PAGE FOR MORE
INFORMATION**



Collecting US 2 Cent Pieces

by Chris Sutter



Are you looking for something new to collect, something that is different and somewhat unusual? Of course, it must be something challenging and something that can be completed within a reasonable time period and at a reasonable cost. If it impresses all your collecting friends, well, that is also a big plus.

Why not consider US 2 cent pieces? This series is short, consisting of just 10 years: 1864 to 1873. It includes some varieties and a proof-only issue. If you want, it can also be expanded to include 2 varieties of the proof-only issue and a doubled die. However, since an attractive plastic holder is available that has holes for 11 coins, the basic series consists of nine business strikes (1864-1872), one proof-only (1873), and one variety.

The 2 cent piece is a historic piece. It was authorized during the Civil War to put more coins into circulation. Since silver, gold, and nickel were being hoarded, about the only metal that stood a chance of staying in circulation was bronze. The Act of April 22, 1864, specified a bronze coin of 96 grams. Why did Congress believe that a bronze coin would circulate? In order to provide change for day-to-day business transactions, merchants began to issue their own “coins.” These “coins,” or to be more accurate “tokens,” were the size of the US cent and were made of bronze. While their designs varied greatly, many were of a patriotic nature. The composition of the cent was also changed to bronze to coincide with the two cent piece.

Did the plan work? Well, it did to some extent. A large number of circulated coins are available indicating that these coins did circulate. However, hoarding continued to be a problem until the end of the war since any government issued coin was seen to possess value and should be kept.

Production of the coin ended in 1873. It was discontinued by the Act of February 12, 1873. This act provided major changes to US coinage by discontinuing many coinage denominations. This act is also known as the “Crime of 73” because it placed the US on a gold standard. The year 1873 saw a major die variety through a mid-year change in the numeral 3 used on the die. This resulted in two varieties, “closed” and “open,” depending on the how much curl is in the front part of the 3. If the top and bottom of the 3 touch the center, the 3 is considered “closed,” if not it is “open.” This coin is also the first US coin to contain the motto “In God We Trust.” This was a direct consequence of the high religious feelings during the Civil War. This idea came from a letter by Rev. M.R. Watkinson in 1861. Various other phrases were considered, including “Our Country; Our God” and “God, Our Trust,” before the final version was selected.

How unusual was this? The Act of April 22, 1864, did not cover all coinage. It was not until March 3, 1865, that Congress authorized, but did not require, placing the motto on all gold and silver coinage. The Act of February 12, 1873, extended this to all coins. Since it was not required, the motto did not appear on all coins until 1938. On July 30, 1956, the motto became the official motto of the US, and it first appeared on paper currency in 1957.

All the coins in this series can be obtained at a reasonable cost. The prices fall into three ranges. Coins in the lowest range can be obtained for 30 to 75 dollars in grade EF-40, or 145 to 425 dollars in grade MS-63. This range includes the years 1864 (small motto) through 1871. The next range covers the 1864 large motto piece and the 1872 issue. Prices in this range are 350 dollars, grade EF-40, and 900 dollars in grade MS-63. The highest range is the 1873 proof only issue with a range of 1,250 to 2,500 dollars for an impaired proof in grade MS-63. These values are based on the June 19, 2000, issue of *Coin World*.

The availability of the coins should not present too great of a problem. Most coin shows will have several examples of the coins in the lowest range. These coins can also be found in advertisements in national coin magazines and newspapers. Finding the next price range can also be done, but experience has shown that patience is in order. It may take attending several shows and viewing several pieces before finding the one coin that meets your specifications. Finding the 1873 can be a problem. While this coin appears frequently in advertisements, obtaining the coin can be elusive. This author is on several dealers' waiting lists and has even had the experience of placing a mail order only to have the order canceled when the dealer could not produce the coin.

What are some of the characteristics of the 2 cent piece? It was designed by James Longacre. It has a weight 6.22 grams, is composed of .950% copper and .050% tin and zinc, and is 23mm in diameter. Mintages range from 19 million for 1864 to 65 thousand for 1872. The 1873 has a mintage estimate of 1100. Philadelphia was the only mint to produce this coin.

The obverse design is a shield with arrows going through it and grain stalks beside it. Above the shield is a ribbon with the motto within it. The date is along the bottom. The reverse is a circle of wheat stalks with the denomination within them and "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" around the edge. A ribbon is used at the bottom to hold the wheat stalks together. The size of the motto accounts for the "large" and "small" motto varieties of 1864. This size difference is discernible by the naked eye and can be determined by the location of the word "WE" in relation to the ribbon it is on.

Grading involves looking at the motto and the wheat grains. The obverse high point is the word "WE". In grade "very fine" the letters are readable. Grades above this require the letters to be bold. On the reverse, the wheat grains will show in "very fine". Higher grades show very little if any wear on the wheat grains. If you want to impress your fiends, this series is very attractive when displayed in a plastic holder. The holder is small enough to allow easy handling,

transporting, and viewing. The series also does not have a large following which makes it somewhat unusual when seen. It also contains several coins with very low mintages. Owning a coin with only 65 thousand examples or one of only 1100 provides a feeling of pride.

If you are still not convinced to collect the entire series, you still have several other options. A low grade version of the coin can be obtained for under ten dollars. This coin could be used as a pocket piece to be carried and shown. As a Civil War issue, an 1864 piece would make a good addition to a display of other Civil War items. This coin could be part of a collection of unusual denominations. This would include, but not be limited to, the 3 cent and the twenty cent piece. Add a large cent, a shield nickel, and maybe a bust half, and you will have a nice collection that will impress most people whether they are collectors or not. How you collect the coins is entirely up to you. However, this writer recommends that you start.

NUMISMATIC TRIVIA

The new quarters have caught the imagination of the American public. Coin holders and albums are seen in more stores than in any time since the 1960's. They are fun to collect and appealing to children.

The geographic theme is an important educational asset for parents and teachers. Even so, many of us are less observant than we think we are. Can you describe the reverse devices on each of the new state quarters issued to date?

- 1. Delaware - _____
- 2. Pennsylvania - _____
- 3. New Jersey - _____
- 4. Georgia - _____
- 5. Connecticut - _____
- 6. Massachusetts - _____
- 7. Maryland - _____
- 8. South Carolina - _____

See page 11 for the answers.

DO YOU KNOW THIS COIN?

Artisans have made cut-out jewelry for at least a hundred years. The late 19th century brooch illustrated here has a portrait cut from a European silver coin. Test your knowledge and identify the portrait and the coin. One bit of help is that the reverse has an eagle and the letters - I MA.



A MODERN MISSOURI ADVERTISING NOTE

During the U.S. Civil War, the Confederacy tried to finance its defense with larger and larger issues of banknotes. With the defeat of the South's "War for Independence", massive numbers of Confederate notes became scrap paper or cheap souvenirs. Since many of them were printed with blank backs, enterprising businessmen bought the worthless paper and had the reverses printed with their advertisements. When the supply of real notes dried up, it was simple to mimic Confederate currency and still produce advertising notes.



Imitation Confederate currency is still commonly used to create advertising pieces since the real currency is no longer valid and no anti-counterfeiting laws would be broken. The printer used simulated, aged parchment paper and the design of a \$50.00 Confederate note for the reverse to create this "authentic looking" imitation currency. Companies that print reproductions of documents and obsolete currency for sale in souvenir shops across the country commonly use this type of paper. No real Confederate note ever used this kind of paper.

Lee Mace's Ozark Opry note was probably made in the 1980's or perhaps in the early 1990's. His portrait dominates the right side and stereotypical caricatures of a hillbilly (Ozark) family are featured on the other side.

In the early 19th century migrants from the southeastern states settled in the Ozarks. Much of the Missouri and Arkansas Ozark region is resource poor and the people of the Ozarks are frequently portrayed as ignorant, shabby hillbillies.

Lee Mace's **OZARK OPRY**

LAKE OF THE OZARKS

Entertainment For The Entire Family

for reservations contact

LEE MACE
BOX 242
OSAGE BEACH, MO 65065
phone (314) 348-2702 or (314) 348-2270

(Even the 19th century railroads avoided building through the poorest regions.) They have maintained a distinct culture which even they are willing to view with humor. The Ozarks, like other mountain regions of the U.S., has a fading rural history. Shows like this help to maintain the local culture and jobs.

The legend identifies the note as being from Osage Beach, Mo. which is home to commercial development and a busy tourist trade. The Lake of the Ozarks discount mall is one of the area's biggest attractions.

Although The Ozark Opry's founder is deceased, the show still runs under his wife's management.

A MISSOURI RECORD

continued from the July, 1998 issue

The editor encourages reader assistance in locating, attributing, and documenting the historical significance of numismatic items relating to Missouri. This column provides a place to publish unusual exnumia, thereby preserving such items for future research.

39. Obv.(Germania in armor standing facing with right arm raised with sword and left hand holding a shield) The figure is flanked by oak leaf wreaths. Arched over Germania is the legend: EINIGKEIT MACHT STARK. Rev. ZUR ERINNERUNG / + AN DEN + / Deutschen Tag (in Gothic script) / OCT. 1895 / WASHINGTON, MO.

30.5 mm. Round Aluminum (with top loop as made)

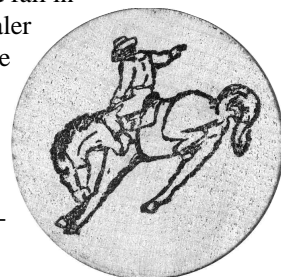
The region around Washington, Mo. was heavily settled by immigrant Germans during the 19th century. Even today German fests are held in the area. This item was originally part of a souvenir or official badge worn for German Day some time in October of 1895 in Washington, Mo.

41. Obv. WILD WEST NITE / (Chevrolet logo) / '58 / BEST OF BEST

Rev. (cowboy on bucking bronco)

38.2 mm. Round Wood

It is unusual to record wood tokens in this column. Many "wooden nickels" identify their origin and maverick tokens are virtually impossible to locate unless there are some hints as to their geography. This piece would fall in that category except that it was acquired from a dealer who had a half-full bag which was labeled the same way as the token. He also stated that the source was a retired car salesman who had worked in South County (St. Louis, MO suburbs). Even though we can attribute this piece to the St. Louis area, it is likely that this was a part of a larger, perhaps nation-wide, promotion.





HIGLEY OR GRANBY COPPERS

by John A. Bush



Dr. Samuel Higley is credited with minting the first domestic copper coinage in the colonies, circa 1737-1739. His medical degree was from Yale College, but he was also proficient as a blacksmith and a metallurgist.

Higley acquired property in 1729 in an area which was part of Simsbury, Connecticut. This region provided the setting for many copper mines, the most notable being later used for the “Old Newgate Prison, which was constructed for incarcerating Tory prisoners during the Revolutionary War.” Higley’s mine, which he operated himself, was a small but flourishing business. The copper extracted from the mined ore was extraordinarily rich. The majority of the copper metal was exported to England.

Because of the deficiency of circulating coinage, Dr. Higley, about 1737, began minting a small quantity of copper tokens. These tokens were never authorized by any governing body, but Higley minted the first pieces bearing a stated denomination of three pence. These tokens were light in weight compared to the contemporary circulating British halfpennies, intrinsically speaking, since they both had the same diameter. Higley’s tokens, however, were pure copper!

Tradition recounts that the price of drinks in the local taverns for this time was set at three pence each. After the minting of his initial token production, Dr. Higley became accustomed to paying his bar tab with his own “coinage.” Because of the public outcry against Dr. Higley’s practice, the earlier inscription of “THE VALUE OF THREE PENCE” was revised to “VALUE ME AS YOU PLEASE.” However, the tokens still carried an implied value; below the standing deer was the Roman numeral *III*.

Dr. Samuel Higley died in May, 1737, during a voyage to England accompanying a shipment of copper from his mine. It is assumed that the token issues dated 1739 were designed and minted by his eldest son John, along with William Cradock and Reverend Timothy Woodbridge.

The example depicted for this article is a 1737 Higley three pence. The obverse depicts a Standing Deer with the Roman numeral *III* below and the inscription “VALUE . ME . AS . YOU . PLEASE.” The reverse shows a Broad Axe and the inscription “J . CUT . MY . WAY . THROUGH.”

Sylvester S. Crosby (*The Early Coins of America*, Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1974 reprint of 1873 edition) attributes the rarity of Higley coppers today to the purity of their copper composition. According to Crosby, an elderly goldsmith

related that their scarcity existed even around 1810 when they were sought out as an alloy for gold by master goldsmiths.

Although there are eight varieties known for Higley coppers, the number minted was small. The circulation of these tokens occurred around Granby, Connecticut, and surrounding areas. The observed number of surviving specimens is approximately 70. Almost every Higley token indicates a history of considerable circulation because the majority of pieces grade Good to Very Good condition.

The Higley copper coinage is just another example of the lore and romance attached to early American coins. These early American coins provide us with a view into the period when our country was being formed. For collectors these Colonial coins serve as a link to the historic period of their mintage.

COIN COLLECTING IS EASY

Many people believe that coin collecting has to be an expensive hobby. For the average collector, this isn't true at all. What is required, however, is imagination in setting boundaries for a collection.

The first rule is to distinguish between an accumulation of coins or other numismatic material and a collection. An accumulation sits in a box until the owner decides to show off the various curiosities. A collection, on the other hand, has a specific purpose and a plan for acquisition and possible upgrading of material. Collecting the current issues of U.S. quarters only requires saving one coin for each state. The plan is already built in.

An accumulation of coins from grandfather's dresser can be gleaned to become the basis of a real collection. Once the collector decides upon a direction for his/her collection, acquisitions are deliberate. Particular items are sought to meet the collection's goal which need not be elaborate and is often best limited so that completion can occur within the foreseeable future. For example, United States coins from World War II are readily acquirable in virtually all grades for the five-year span. Good quality coins in less than perfect condition are not expensive. Once that parameter has been met, the collector may choose to include coins of other nations struck by U.S. mints during the war. Currency and some types of tokens could also be added to broaden the collector's understanding of the events of World War II.

Creating a collection implies a willingness to read about and study the items at hand. Study adds hours of enjoyment beyond the searching, finding, and buying these economic artifacts of a time now past.

FUTURE NUMISMATIC EVENTS

July 28-30, 2000	The MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY will host its 40th Annual Coin Festival at the Henry VIII Hotel on Lindbergh near I-70.
August 9-13, 2000	The American Numismatic Association (ANA) will hold its 109th Anniversary Convention in Philadelphia, PA. (Consult The Numismatist for details.)
September 7-10, 2000	The Illinois State Numismatic Association will host the Central States Numismatic Society Fall Coin Show at the Ramada Inn at 17040 S. Halsted (the intersection of I80 and Rt. 1.) in Harvey, IL.
September 30- October 1, 2000	The St. Clair Numismatic Society's Coin Show at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds in Belleville, Illinois, east of the junction of Rts. 13 and 159.
October, 2000 (exact date to be announced)	The Dupo Coin Club a fall one-day coin show on Sunday at the Ramada Inn at Fairview Heights, Illinois, junction of Highways 159 and I-64.
October 26-29, 2000	The Professional Currency Dealers Association National and World Paper Money Convention is at the Hilton Frontenac Hotel at 1335 S. Lindbergh near Hwy 40.
November 12, 2000	The Central Illinois Numismatic Association is holding it's last one-day coin show for 2000 in the Northfield Center, 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL.
December 10, 2000	The Madison Numismatic Associates will hold a one day (Sunday) coin show at the American Legion Hall in Collinsville, IL. It can be reached by going south on Hwy. 159 from I-70.
February, 2001 (exact date to be announced)	The 44th annual Dupo Coin Show is held at the Ramada Inn at Fairview Heights, Illinois, junction of Highways 159 and I-64.
February 16-18, 2001	The 37th annual St. Louis Numismatic Association Show is at the Hilton Frontenac Hotel at 1335 S. Lindbergh near Hwy 40.
March, 2000 (exact date to be announced)	The St. Clair Numismatic Society's Coin Show is in the Trophy Room of the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds in Belleville, Illinois, east of the junction of Rts. 13 and 159.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| April 5-8, 2001 | The Central States Numismatic Society holds its 62nd Anniversary Convention at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, IN. |
| July 27-29, 2001 | The MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY'S 41st Annual Coin Festival will be held at a site to be announced. |
| August 8-12, 2001 | The American Numismatic Association (ANA) will hold its 110th Anniversary Convention in the Cobb Galleria Centre at Atlanta, GA. (Consult future issues of The Numismatist for details.) |

MERCANTILE MONEY MUSEUM

The Mercantile Money Museum, formerly located in the Mercantile Tower, has relocated. It now resides in the University of Missouri - St. Louis Library as does the Mercantile Library (also previously located in downtown St. Louis). The Eric P. Newman Library is available to serious researchers by appointment. For further information, call 314-516-5903.

ANSWERS:



1. Delaware - Caesar Rodney on horseback
2. Pennsylvania - state map and figure of liberty
3. New Jersey - Geo. Washington crossing the Delaware
4. Georgia - state map with a superimposed peach
5. Connecticut - the Charter Oak
6. Massachusetts - state map with a minuteman
7. Maryland - state capitol building
8. South Carolina - state map, state bird and palmetto tree



Answer to Identification, Please: The portrait is of Friedrich III of Prussia. The coin appears to have been a 2 mark piece struck in 1888.

ANCIENT COIN STUDY GROUP

The Ancient Coin Study Group meets five times per year on the third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The Ancient Coin Study Group meets at various locations, such as The main branch of the St. Louis County Library, Washington University and Covenant Seminary, for the convenience of the presenters. The location of each meeting of along with any changes in meeting dates will be announced in the Missouri Numismatic Society newsletter.

Scheduled programs are

2000

September 15	Frank Miller	Urturkid Coinage
November 17	David Murrey	Coins from the Wulfing Collection

2001

January 19	Dr. Harold Mare	Abila - Year 2000 finds
March 23	Michael Pfefferkorn	Roman Provincial Bronze
		Coins from the Balkans
May 18	Roger Schmidt	Real or Not? - Counterfeits and Reproductions

ST. LOUIS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The St. Louis Numismatic Association features a numismatic auction at each meeting which commences at 8:00 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Meetings are held at the Machinists' Hall on St. Charles Rock Rd., east of I-270. For more information contact S.L.N.A., P.O. Box 410051, St. Louis, MO 63141.

METRO-EAST NUMISMATIC GROUPS

The St. Clair Numismatic Society meets at 1121 East Main St., Belleville, Illinois at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month from September through April.

The Dupo Coin Club meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the American Legion Hall at 200 S. Fifth St., Dupo, Illinois.

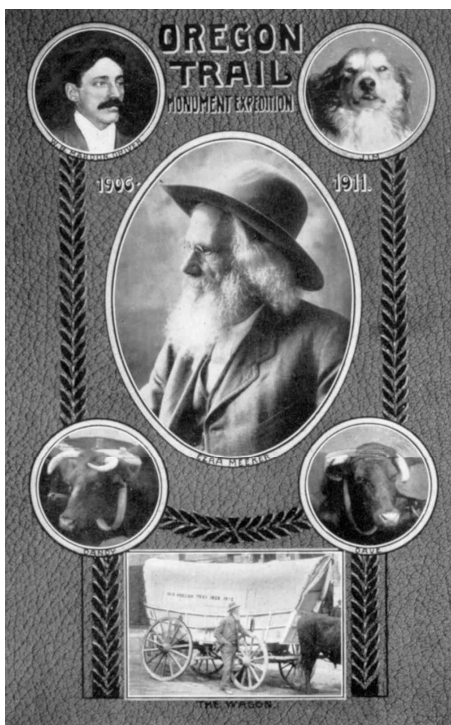
EZRA MEEKER ON THE TRAIL THROUGH MISSOURI

With the emerging age of space travel and the science fiction created in the last half century, it is easy to forget what being a pioneer was like in the nineteenth century. In a time when cars can break the sound barrier and satellites can circle the globe several times a day, it is difficult to visualize everyday life when it took a day to travel sixty miles. Our older generations recall the slow travel of trains, yet they sped across the country at sixty miles per hour or higher.

Ezra Meeker realized that his era was rapidly disappearing and sought to create a series of lasting monuments to the passage of migrants over the Oregon Trail. To dramatize the need to memorialize this element of western history, he decided to reenact the travel along the Oregon Trail and then continue his trip all the way to Washington, D.C. This ambitious expedition was begun by Meeker at the age of 75!

To finance the venture, Meeker issued and sold postcards depicting the many different sights along his route. One such postcard depicts his entourage - himself, his driver, his dog Jim, and two oxen (Dave and Dandy). The reverse of the card carries a description of his goals and successes.

"Fifth anniversary
Souvenir Card of the Oregon
Trail Monument Expedition;
left Puyallap Washington on
January 29, 1906; erected 27
monuments, inscribed seven-
teen boulders, and otherwise
marked the Trail on the way;
arrived at Missouri River cross-
ing, Oct. 9th; thence drove to
Washington City; arrived
November 29, 1907; inter-
viewed President Roosevelt;
procured introduction of bills in
Congress appropriating
\$50,000. to complete the work;
expedition returned home 1908;
second trip made 1910; trail
located, platted, cost of monu-
menting estimated; now
enroute to Washington City;
will there report findings to
Congress; estimated number of
monuments 700; cost \$85,000; is
forerunner of greater monument to be
know as Pioneer Way 2200 miles along the Oregon Trail; distance dri-

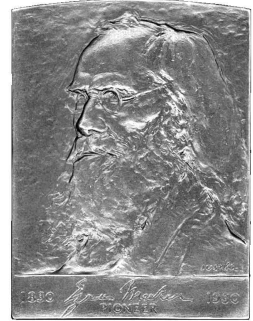


ven 8500 miles. Ages: Ezra Meeker 80 years; Mardon 36; Jim 7; Dave 10; Dandy 10; Wagon (in part) 60.”

The postcard’s printed message continued with a plea for public support.

“Reader, Write your Congressman to favor this work; advocate it in the home; the church; lecture halls; streets; its a great work to thus record history, honor the Winners of the farther west and build up patriotism in the breasts of countless generations to follow. Dayton, Ohio. Jan. 29th, 1911.”

Ezra Meeker was himself memorialized by his postcards which depicts our nation at the beginning of the last (20th - in case you forgot) century and the small bronze plaque shown right.



The obverse has a bust of Meeker facing left with a legend in exergue, 1830 (Ezra Meeker in script) 1930. The reverse is blank and its dimensions are 49.5 mm. wide x 65.8 mm. high with the top edge slightly curved upward.

Pioneers started their trip on the Oregon Trail from jumping off spots in western Missouri. Missouri was, and still is, the center of travel from east to west or west to east. Missouri, a Civil War border state, was also crossed by Meeker in his quest for federal support to pay for his proposed monuments.

The Missouri postcard (18. Way Down in Old Missouri) features the wagon, team of oxen and a Negro family of two women and six children. It carries an interesting, and perhaps revealing, legend on the reverse.

“No race suicide here. On the drive from St. Louis to Jefferson City, 1908.”



No doubt, the wording refers to a strong aversion to miscegenation. Rural Missouri in 1908 looks almost primitive if we attempt to judge it by today’s standards. Yet, Ezra Meeker was bemoaning a history almost lost and definitely much harder than the one through which he travelled to Washington D.C.

COAL MINES - A REAL VIEW OF “SIXTEEN TONS”

Coal mine history is often remembered as a turbulent struggle between large numbers of miners and large corporations. Numismatics, through studies on coal mine scrip, supports this thesis. Although violence, union struggles, and even presidential intervention unquestionably played a part of this layer of American history, often mining operations were relatively small as the photograph below attests. The ramshackle buildings reflect the economy of the Great Depression and the small operators who also added to the nation's supply of fuel.



The reverse of the photograph identifies the scene as:

Coal Mine Tippel - powerhouse & scale of Coal Mine -
operated by Henry Sesson - near Shulins - near Walsh Illinois

The historical context of the picture was completed with more typewritten information. Clyde McLaughlin took the photo taken in the summer of 1935. He and his two sisters, Mayme and Virginia, had stopped to visit another sister, Sabie (McLaughlin) Sesson, the operator's wife. After their visit, Clyde and his sisters continued their trip to Cairo, Illinois and crossed over the bridge to Charleston, Missouri.

Although tokens are known for a coal mine at nearby Sparta, in Randolph County, IL, none are recorded for this mine. Perhaps, one day, some type of scrip from “Coal Mine Tippel” may turn up.

A QUIZ SHOW “SHORT-SNORTER”

During World War II, many G.I.'s collected signatures of company (or squadron) members on a piece of currency as a memento of their friends whom they might never see again. Servicemen applied the term, “short snorters”, to these souvenirs. This custom is occasionally found in a civilian context. Garage or estate sales often yield such odd or unusual numismatic items as do flea markets and antique dealers. Eventually, some find their way into the numismatic market.

Every once in a while, a lucky searcher discovers a rather remarkable item. In this case, it is an autographed note which takes us back to an era seen by many as the “Happy Days” and by others as a time of challenge featuring the Cold War, the Korean War, the beginnings of rock and roll, McCarthyism, and the roots of the civil rights movement. The dollar was a hard earned commodity that carried a much higher value than it does now. A Coke cost a nickel, and minimum wage was about sixty cents per hour.

Television began replacing the radio as the information and entertainment medium in American homes, even though it was viewed on small screens and only in black and white. By today's standards, production costs for 1950's TV shows were incredibly cheap.

During the early fifties, “What's My Line?” was one of the more popular television programs. Its producers encouraged potential contestants to write in describing what they did for a living - the more unlikely or bizarre (for the 1950's!) the better. The object of the game show was to stump a celebrity panel attempting to guess the contestant's occupation.

Henry De La Torre from Homestead, Florida was one such contestant. He had played football for Miami Senior High School and later would play football for the University of Florida. In 1952, Henry received a round trip ticket to travel on the Silver Streak from Florida to New York City. This was indeed a low budget program. He did not get any money to stay overnight. Neither was there any allowance for sleeping on the train nor for food.



Henry was quizzed by panelists Dorothy Kilgallen, Bennett Cerf, and Arlene Frances. John Daley was the emcee. The panel lost, and Henry earned his prize money - \$50.00. Before returning home on the same day, he had the presence of mind to request the panel and host to autograph a series 1935 E one dollar silver certificate. Thus we have a numismatic connection to early commercial television.

What was Henry's occupation? The eighteen year-old contestant was the youngest certified deep sea diver in the USA.

A CATALOGUE OF ST. LOUIS AREA BATTING CAGE TOKENS

by

Michael G. Pfefferkorn and Russell Vogelsang

Summer is here. Summer is a season noted for its own sights, smells and sounds. From the backyard barbeque to fresh strawberries or plentiful slices of watermelon, food marks the season. The sound of a bat - CRAACK! - against a baseball also spells summer. The slugger's shoulders heave toward the ball, the bat connects, and the announcer yells "It's a high fly. It's going all the way! Home run!"

Picture this scene with young boys practicing to get their swing just right. Maybe the "boys" are two older men reliving a never-to-be-forgotten youth. And, it's not in the stadium. Around town, recreation businesses have batting cages for young ball players wishing to perfect their skills. Many of these places use tokens to operate the pitching devices. This catalogue was researched in 1998 and 1999.

PART I - CUSTOM DESIGNED TOKENS

BAT-MAN BATTING RANGE 901 N. Hwy 67 (N. Lindbergh, just north
of Patterson) (Florissant, MO)

Tom Menke of Hazelwood owns and operates Bat-Man Batting Range. A large sign announces a quick turn left (if travelling north) at the foot of the bridge just north of the junction of Patterson Road and Lindbergh Blvd. The facility, which opened in 1988, is located off of North Lindbergh Blvd. behind Menke's \$1.00 Car Wash. It has nine cages which offer thirteen options: six slow softball, one fast softball and six variable speed baseball.

One token will buy twenty pitches. Tokens cost \$1.00 each. Single purchase discounts are 6 tokens for five dollars, 13 tokens for ten dollars, and 27 tokens for 20 dollars.

1. obv. BAT-MAN BATTING RANGE
/ #901 / No. Hwy 67 / FLORISSANT, MO / 831-9274

rev. (half figure of ball player
preparing to hit a pitch) surrounded
by two inner circles

27.1 mm. brass round



Menke's \$1.00 Car Wash also uses tokens. The legends on the tokens explain their use, one for self service (four, costing a quarter each, are required for a four minute, 57 second wash) and one for the automated car wash (cost - \$3.50).

- 1a. obv. * * SPOT-FREE RINSE * *
POWERFUL VACUUMS * * OPEN
24 HOURS * * FOAMING BRUSH-
ES [all around rim] / (MENKE'S /
GREAT / AMERICAN / CAR WASH
[over outline of continental U.S.]) /
SELF SPRAY / TOKEN



rev. MENKE'S / GREAT / AMERICAN / CAR WASH / SELF SPRAY
/ TOKEN

24.9 mm. white metal round

- 1b. obv. * * SPOT-FREE RINSE * *
* POWERFUL VACUUMS * *
OPEN 24 HOURS * * FOAM-
ING BRUSHES [all around
rim] / (MENKE'S / GREAT /
AMERICAN / CAR WASH
[over outline of continental
U.S.]) / GOOD FOR ONE / AUTOMATIC CAR WASH / AND SPOT-FREE
RINSE



rev. MENKE'S / GREAT / AMERICAN / CAR WASH / 831-WASH /
FREQUENT WASHERS DISCOUNTS / FLEET DISCOUNTS /
FUNDRAISER PACKAGES

28.5 mm. white metal round (courtesy Kevin Menke)

SWING AROUND FUN TOWN Hwy 141 & Gravois (Fenton, MO 63026)

The entrance to Swing-Around Fun Town is one block north of Gravois Road which is one block south of the intersection of Hwy 30 and Hwy 141. There is no access from the parking adjacent Wal-Mart parking lot. (The complex features Go Karts, 3 mini-Golf Courses and an 80- game arcade in addition to the 9 cage baseball and softball range.

1. obv. (logo = castle atop ball [part golf ball/part baseball] with outlines of golf club and bat crossing on top)



rev. (scroll) NO (scroll) / CASH / VALUE
/ (scroll)

22.9 mm. brass round



2. obv. (logo = castle atop ball [part golfball/part baseball]
with outlines of golf club and bat crossing on top)

rev. (half figure of ball player preparing to hit a pitch)
surrounded by two inner circles

27.1 mm. brass round

NOTE: The smaller token (22.9 mm.) is used solely for indoor games. The larger token (27.1 mm.) was used to operate batting cages at the Fenton facility. This has been replaced by a generic debit credit card.



SWING AROUND FUN TOWN 3541 Bogey Road (south outer road along
I-70) (St. Charles, MO 63303)

The second Swing-Around Fun Town is located on the South Outer Road which parallels I-70. The smaller St. Charles facility uses tokens to operate a 9 cage baseball and softball range. It also has 18 hole miniature golf course and an arcade which uses quarters rather than tokens.

Two types were in use at the St. Charles Swing-Around Fun Town: the custom token used in Fenton and a generic token. The generic tokens will be discussed in a later installment.

TOWER TEE BASEBALL 6727 Heege Rd. (63123)
(unincorporated St. Louis County - south)
(five types of tokens)

Tower Tee Baseball, owned by Dave Swatek, sits behind Tower Tee's miniature golf range and west of the driving range. The Tower Tee golf range, a separate operation, is named for its proximity to a television broadcasting tower, not a lighthouse as depicted on the baseball token.

1. obv. THIS IS / (small 4-leaf clover) MY
(small 4-leaf clover) / LUCKY / DAY
rev. (scroll) NO (scroll) / CASH /
VALUE / (scroll)

22.9 mm. brass round



NOTE: This generic token was used for a few months until the custom ordered tokens could be delivered.

2. obv. TOWER TEE / (tower resembling a
lighthouse) / BASEBALL
rev. (half figure of ball player preparing
to hit a pitch) surrounded by two
inner circles

22.9 mm. brass round





- a. figure is detailed showing hairlines and fingers
- b. some hairlines and facial features visible
- c. no hairlines and facial features are blurred

NOTE: Token 2a is struck heavily giving all features. Evidentially the heavier striking raises the edges and causes it not to work in some token receptors. This is the reason given by Mr. Swatek for the lighter strike tokens (varieties 2b and 2c).

3. obv. TOWER TEE BASEBALL / (half figure of ball player preparing to hit a pitch) surrounded by two inner circles / EST. 1974



rev. * * * SALUTE TO 70 * * * /

(small date 1998 divided by large number 70) / HOME RUNS

22.8 mm. brass round

WOODEN NICKELS FOR CHARITY



The use of wooden nickels is alive and well at the Wild Oats Markets in Clayton and Chesterfield, MO. The company operates nationwide and in Quebec. The holistic nutrition store, which features health foods and organic produce, offers consumers a rebate of five cents for each grocery bag returned for reuse. However, customers may take wooden nickels instead of the rebate. The wooden nickels are then deposited in one of three “banks” of a participating community group or charity. Currently, the Clayton store has “banks” for the Murphy-Blair Tenant Assn., the Community Development Initiative Project, and the Tree House Wildlife Center, Inc. of Brighton, IL.

ANCIENT COINAGE STUDY GROUP

The Ancient Coinage Study Group has served those interested in ancient and medieval coinages for two decades. Since 1980, the Missouri Numismatic Society and the World Coin Club of Missouri have sponsored our informal meetings which are open to the public. As such, the ACSG is dues free. Information about the ACSG is available at meetings of either society.

The Ancient Coinage Study Group tends to focus on on classical European civilizations; however, the European Middle Ages and Asia are frequently visited (armchair travel). Ancient coins are passports to a time lost and cultures that should be remembered. Presentations are often accompanied by a display of actual coins or by slides.

At this time, ancient coins can be easily and often inexpensively purchased from coin show dealers or through internet auction services. Good quality coins make this an exciting time for the collector and somewhat of a worry for professional archaeologists.

Both advanced and novice collectors are also able to share their acquisitions with professional archaeologists and historians in an informal atmosphere. Dr. Mare continues to update us on the latest finds from the Abila (Decapolis) excavations in Jordan with slides of the ruined town.

“Show and tell” sessions offer the opportunity to identify “mystery coins” which members and guests bring to start the evening’s activities. On occasion, counterfeits and reproductions are examined or discussed. Visitors are encouraged to bring in their most challenging coins for identification and discussion.

The Missouri Numismatic Library includes an extensive collection of references on ancient and medieval coinage which can be found on the fifth floor in the Special Collections Department at the main branch of the St. Louis County Library. The ACSG always suggests that the collector read before making a purchase. This resource is available to any library patron.

The ACSG meets five times per year on the third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held at various sites, such as Covenant Seminary, Washington University, or the main branch of the St. Louis County Library (S. Lindbergh just south of Clayton Rd.) Schedule changes are announced in the Missouri Numismatic Society monthly newsletter.

If you are curious about classical or medieval civilizations or in historical numismatics, please join us! The program schedule for 2000-2001 is listed below.

2000

September 15	Frank Miller	Urturkid Coinage
November 17	David Murrey	Coins from the Wulfing Collection

2001

January 19	Dr. Harold Mare	Abila - Year 2000 finds
March 23	Michael Pfefferkorn	Roman Provincial Bronze Coins from the Balkans
May 18	Roger Schmidt	Real or Not? - Counterfeits and Reproductions

WORLD COIN CLUB OF MISSOURI

The World Coin Club meets on the second Sunday afternoon of each month at a subdivision clubhouse and swimming pool located at end of a short driveway south of Merrick Ave. in west county. Merrick is an east-west street which crosses Ross Road about midway between Page and Olive Boulevards. From I-270 take Olive Street Road west to the third stoplight, turn right (north) on Ross Rd. Continue north until Merrick Ave. is reached. (Watch for the stop sign.) Turn left (west) and go approximately one block, turn left (south) and drive to the Robinwood Swim Club. Ample parking is on the east side of the clubhouse.

The club address is W.C.C.Mo., P.O. Box 410652, St. Louis MO 63141. Trading begins at 1:00 p.m. The members convene at 2:15 p.m. for a brief business meeting. A program and auction follow.

2000

August 13	Curt Farley	Coins of Desert Storm
September 10	_____	Library Fund Charity Auction
October 8	Al Hortmann	Security Devices on Paper Currency
November 12	Tony Troup	U.S. Date/Type Sets
December 10	_____	Annual Christmas Party (bourse trading allowed)

2001

January 10	Dan Burleson	Conder Tokens
February 11	Mike Dwyer	Love Tokens
March 11	Michael Pfefferkorn	Annual Quiz
April 8	to be announced	E-Bay Numismatics
May 13	Roundtable: Earl Biffle, Mike Dwyer, and Roger Schmidt	Cleaning Coins
June 10	Dave Frank	World Currency
July 8	Ed Schroeder	Coins as Ornaments
August 12	Curt Farley	Curious and Unusual Money
September 9	Tony Troup	Religious Themes on U.S. Coinage
October 14	Jerry Faintich	to be announced
November 11	Barbara Ormsby (chair), Phyllis Faintich, Louise Howell, Frances Hugo and Robin Payne	Roundtable: Questions for the "Experts"

MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The Missouri Numismatic Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month except in November and December. Meetings open at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church located across from Craig School at 1485 Craig Road one mile north of Olive Blvd. Craig Road is also accessible from Page Avenue. Members and visitors may park at the rear of the church. Members' bourse precedes the business meeting. A program, auction and bourse follow. For additional information or membership application, write to M.N.S., P.O.Box 410652, St. Louis, MO 63141-0652.

2000

August 23	D. Biersack	Standing Liberty Quarters
September 27	Norm Bowers	The Euro
October 25	Curt Farley	to be announced
November 15**	John Bush	St. Louis World's Fair Coins

**Please note that this meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday to avoid a conflict with Thanksgiving.

December 8	—————	Annual Christmas Dinner with Special Entertainment
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2001

January 24	Dave Frank	U. S. Large Cents 1793-1814
February 28	Mike Dwyer	Love Tokens
March 28	Bill Vaughan	Texas Currency
April 25	Ken Thompson	Coins of Portugal
May 23	Terry Schaab	Tokens
June 27	Allan Pickup	Maximilian I of Mexico
July 25	Michael Pfefferkorn	Numismatic Frontiers
August 22	D. Biersack	History of U. S. Mints
September 26	Norm Bowers	to be announced
October 24	Curt Farley	Oriental Numismatics
November 21	John Bush	Exonomia Part V